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JULY 16

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Trump's July Fourth celebration cost military at least $1.2 million: Pentagon

A B-2 bomber flying for one hour costs close to $122,000.

U.S. Navy Blue Angels fly over as President Donald J. Trump participates in an Independence Day Fourth of July celebration "Salute to America" event in front of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall on Thursday, July 4, 2019, in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

The Pentagon said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's celebration of U.S. Independence Day, which included bringing tanks and equipment to Washington, cost the military at least $1.2 million.

Two Bradley fighting vehicles flanked Trump during his July Fourth speech last week, in which he praised American military might despite having himself avoided the draft during the Vietnam War with bone spurs in his feet.

Trump told stories about each military branch before separate, dramatic flyovers of their respective military aircraft.

Trump, a Republican who was inspired to stage the flashy affair after seeing a similar display in France, dismissed concerns ahead of the ceremony about the expense and militaristic overtones of the event outside the 97-year-old Lincoln Memorial, a symbol of national unity.

"The total cost of the Department's support to the 'Salute to America' event was $1.2 million," the Pentagon said in a statement.

In addition to the cost to the military, the Washington Post reported last week that the U.S. National Park Service had diverted $2.5 million in park entrance fees to help pay for the event.

The actual cost for the Pentagon is likely higher, since the Pentagon said funding for the aircraft demonstrations came from the military services' training budgets.

It was not immediately clear if all of the $1.2 million was for the cost of transporting equipment like two Abrams tanks and two Bradley fighting vehicles from Fort Stewart in Georgia for the celebration.

The military did not immediately provide a breakdown of the cost. Simply flying the B-2 bomber for an hour costs about $122,000, according to the Air Force.

On Monday, Trump said such an event would take place in the future.

"Based on its tremendous success, we're just making the decision — and I think we can say we've made the decision — to do it again next year, and, maybe we can say, for the foreseeable future," Trump told reporters.

The July Fourth holiday celebrates the U.S. founders' declaring independence from Britain in 1776. REUTERS

Equal pay bill for US national teams introduced

2 Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) introduced a bill Tuesday preventing the federal government from providing funding for the 2026 FIFA World Cup until the United States Soccer Federation agrees to equal pay for its men's and women's national teams. "No federal funds may be appropriated or otherwise made available to provide support for the 2026 World Cup, including support for a host city, a participating State or local agency, the United States Soccer Federation, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), or the Federation de Football Association (FIFA), until the date on which the United States Soccer Federation agrees to provide equitable pay," the bill reads. In March, 28 members of the U.S. women's national team filed lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation accusing U.S. Soccer of gender discrimination. REUTERS

Ex-combat pilot challenges McConnell for Senate

3 Amy McGrath, a former U.S. Marine combat pilot whose compelling biography drew national attention during an unsuccessful Democratic congressional campaign last year, said on Tuesday she would challenge Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in 2020. In a video announcing her campaign for the U.S. Senate from Kentucky, McGrath, 44, described writing a letter at age 13 to her senator, telling McConnell she wanted to become a fighter pilot even though women were barred from combat at the time — a story she also highlighted when running for the U.S. House of Representatives last year. "I've often wondered how many other people did Mitch McConnell never take the time to write back, or even think about," she said, before accusing McConnell of turning his back on his constituents. REUTERS

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Former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. GETTY IMAGES

Former New York City mayor donates $10M to state for OD-prevention initiative

Pennsylvania will be the first state to receive funding from the initiative.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

Billionaire former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is helping fight Pennsylvania's opioid crisis, a state that has been hit hard by the devastating drug epidemic.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is working with public health nonprofit Vital Strategies on an initiative to prevent opioid overdoses in the U.S. On Tuesday, officials announced details on the project, which will put $10 million toward treatment strategies and law enforcement training over the next three years.

The funding comes just two months after Pennsylvania sued Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, a powerful and addictive opioid. Statistics show that addiction touches the lives of 1 in 4 Pennsylvanians. According to the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General, there were 4,267 fatal overdoses in the state in 2018, which equals an average of 12 lives lost per day. In 2017, an average of 15 people died each day from overdoses, amounting to 5,600 in total that year.

$50M
Bloomberg's national initiative promises to spend $50 million across the U.S. Pennsylvania is the first state to receive the funds.

Although $10 million was provided to Pennsylvania alone, Bloomberg's national initiative promises to spend $50 million across the U.S. Pennsylvania is the first state to receive the funds, according to Whyy.org.

The foundation will share the first round of funding with more than 100 hospitals looking to join an "Opioid Action Learning Network," where they will develop a strategy for treating opioids.

The money also will help support the Department of Corrections as it begins to offer both methadone and buprenorphine, which are medications that help manage withdrawal symptoms.

The money will be provided to a partnership between the Pennsylvania Sheriff's Association and the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition, to train officers on harm-reduction methods; give them a refresher on how to use naloxone; and educate them on fentanyl test strips to determine how potent the drugs are.

Daliah Heller of Vital Strategies told Whyy.org that Pennsylvania was the first state to receive funding because of its diverse geography, having both rural and urban environments.

Appeals court finds President Trump's blocking of Twitter critics unconstitutional

President Donald Trump violated the Constitution by blocking people whose views he disliked from his Twitter account, a federal appeals court ruled on Tuesday.

In a 3-0 decision, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said the First Amendment forbids Trump from using Twitter's "blocking" function to limit access to his account, which has 61.8 million followers.

"The First Amendment does not permit a public official who utilizes a social media account for all manner of official purposes to exclude persons from an otherwise-open online dialogue because they expressed views with which the official disagrees," wrote Circuit Judge Barrington Parker, citing several Supreme Court decisions.

A White House spokesman had no immediate comment.

President Donald Trump. REUTERS

White House social media director Dan Scavino was also a defendant.

"We are disappointed with the court's decision and are exploring possible next steps," said Kelly Laco, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Twitter had no immediate comment.

Trump has made his @RealDonaldTrump account, which he opened in 2009, a central and controversial part of his presidency, using it to promote his agenda and to attack critics.

His blocking of critics was challenged by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, as well as seven Twitter users he had blocked.

"The decision will help ensure the integrity and vitality of digital spaces that are increasingly important to our democracy," said Jameel Jaffer, Knight's executive director.

Tuesday's decision upheld a May 2018 ruling by U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Manhattan, which prompted Trump to unblock some accounts.

The Justice Department had called her ruling "fundamentally misconceived," saying Trump used Twitter to express his views, not to offer a public forum for discussion.

Parker, however, said Trump's account bears "all the trappings of an official, state-run account" and is "one of the White House's main vehicles for conducting official business."

He said Trump and his aides have characterized the president's tweets as official statements, and that even the National Archives considers them official records.

Parker also found it ironic that Trump censored speech at a time the conduct of the U.S. government and its officials is subject to intense, passionate and wide-open debate.

"This debate, as uncomfortable and as unpleasant as it frequently may be, is nonetheless a good thing," he wrote. "We remind the litigants and the public that if the First Amendment means anything, it means that the best response to disfavored speech on matters of public concern is more speech, not less."

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Labor secretary, asked to step down by Dems, calls Epstein crimes 'horrific'

Dem leaders Pelosi and Schumer have called for Alex Acosta's resignation.

Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, under pressure from Democrats to resign over his handling of a decade-old sex abuse case against financier Jeffrey Epstein, on Tuesday defended his actions as a former federal prosecutor and called Epstein's crimes "horrific."

Meanwhile President Donald Trump praised Acosta's work in his administration, telling reporters at the White House: "I can tell you that for two and a half years, he's been just an excellent secretary of labor." But Trump added that Acosta's success was due in part to the performance of the U.S. economy.

In his statement posted on Twitter, Acosta said, "I am pleased that NY prosecutors are moving forward with a case based on new evidence."

On Monday, federal sex trafficking charges were brought against Epstein, raising new questions about Acosta's handling of a related case in Florida in 2008. Federal prosecutors including Acosta reached a plea deal with Epstein that has since come under scrutiny as being too lenient.

"With the evidence available more than a decade ago, federal prosecutors insisted that Epstein go to jail, register as a sex offender and put the world on notice that he was a sexual predator," Acosta wrote on Twitter.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other leading Democrats in Congress said Acosta must step down. Schumer also called on Trump to explain his past relationship with Epstein.

"I am calling on Secretary Acosta to resign," Schumer said in a speech on the Senate floor. "It is now impossible for anyone to have confidence in Secretary Acosta's ability to lead the Department of Labor."

"If he refuses to resign, President Trump should fire him," Schumer added.

In a late-Monday tweet Pelosi said: "As US Attorney, he engaged in an unconscionable agreement w/ Jeffrey Epstein kept secret from courageous, young victims preventing them from seeking justice."

It was not clear whether Republicans in Congress would stand by Acosta. On Monday evening, Republican Senator Mitt Romney said he would withhold comment while investigations were pending.

White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway called Epstein's alleged crimes "disgusting," but added that Trump "obviously wasn't involved in the case, didn't know Acosta at the time and didn't follow the case very closely."

> **"I am pleased that NY prosecutors are moving forward with a case based on new evidence."**
>
> Alexander Acosta
> labor secretary

Meanwhile, U.S. Attorney General William Barr will not recuse himself from involvement in the new indictment, a Justice Department official said Tuesday.

Representatives for Acosta did not respond to a request for comment.

REUTERS

Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta. REUTERS

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REUTERS

Billionaire H. Ross Perot, who shook up 1990s presidential politics, dies at age 89

H. Ross Perot, the feisty Texas technology billionaire who rattled U.S. politics with two independent presidential campaigns in the 1990s that struck a chord with disgruntled voters, died on Tuesday at the age of 89, his family said.

"Ross Perot, the groundbreaking businessman and loving husband, brother, father and grandfather, passed away early Tuesday at his home in Dallas, surrounded by his devoted family," the Perot family said in a statement. A family spokesman said leukemia was the cause of death.

Perot's fortune was estimated at $4.1 billion by Forbes magazine in April 2019.

Perot was a natural salesman who made a fortune in computer services but he was an unlikely and unconventional politician. He was short with buzz-top haircut, spoke with a folksy Texas drawl and had protruding ears that even he joked about. He was blunt and assertive and his success in business made him accustomed to getting his way.

Perot was so gung-ho that when two of his employees were jailed in Iran in 1978, he organized a team of commandos from his employees and hired a former Green Beret colonel to break them out.

Perot leaped into the 1992 presidential race as an independent and quickly found a lode of Americans turned off by the Republican and Democratic parties. His overarching issue was curbing the government's deficit spending — an issue he referred to as the "crazy aunt in the basement" who no one wanted to talk about.

His outsider campaign, much of it financed by his own money, featured 30-minute television "infomercials." With his charts, self-deprecating humor and down-home economic remedies, Perot led a Gallup Poll five months before the election with 39 percent, compared to 31 percent for incumbent Republican George H.W. Bush and 25 percent for Democrat Bill Clinton.

SURPRISE WITHDRAWAL

A month later, however, Perot stunned the political world by withdrawing from the race. He re-entered several weeks later, saying he had dropped out because Republican tricksters had been plotting to disrupt his daughter's wedding.

Perot finished with a respectable 19 percent of the vote in the presidential election, trailing Clinton's 43 percent and Bush's 37.5 percent.

Perot stayed active in politics by speaking out against the North American Free Trade Agreement, saying it would create a "giant sucking sound" of American jobs going to Mexico.

For his 1996 White House run, Perot started the Reform Party but captured little more than 8 percent of the popular vote, as well as causing a rift in the political movement he founded.

Many voters said they had come to perceive Perot as overbearing, volatile, paranoid and egotistical — even if they had liked his ideas.

By 2000, Perot had mostly faded from the national political radar.

Henry Ross Perot was born on June 27, 1930, in Texarkana, Texas, and raised in the height of the Depression. He graduated in 1953 from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he first learned about computers.

After his naval service, Perot joined IBM as a computer salesman in 1957 and quickly made a reputation for himself. In 1962 he met his yearly sales quota by Jan. 19. REUTERS

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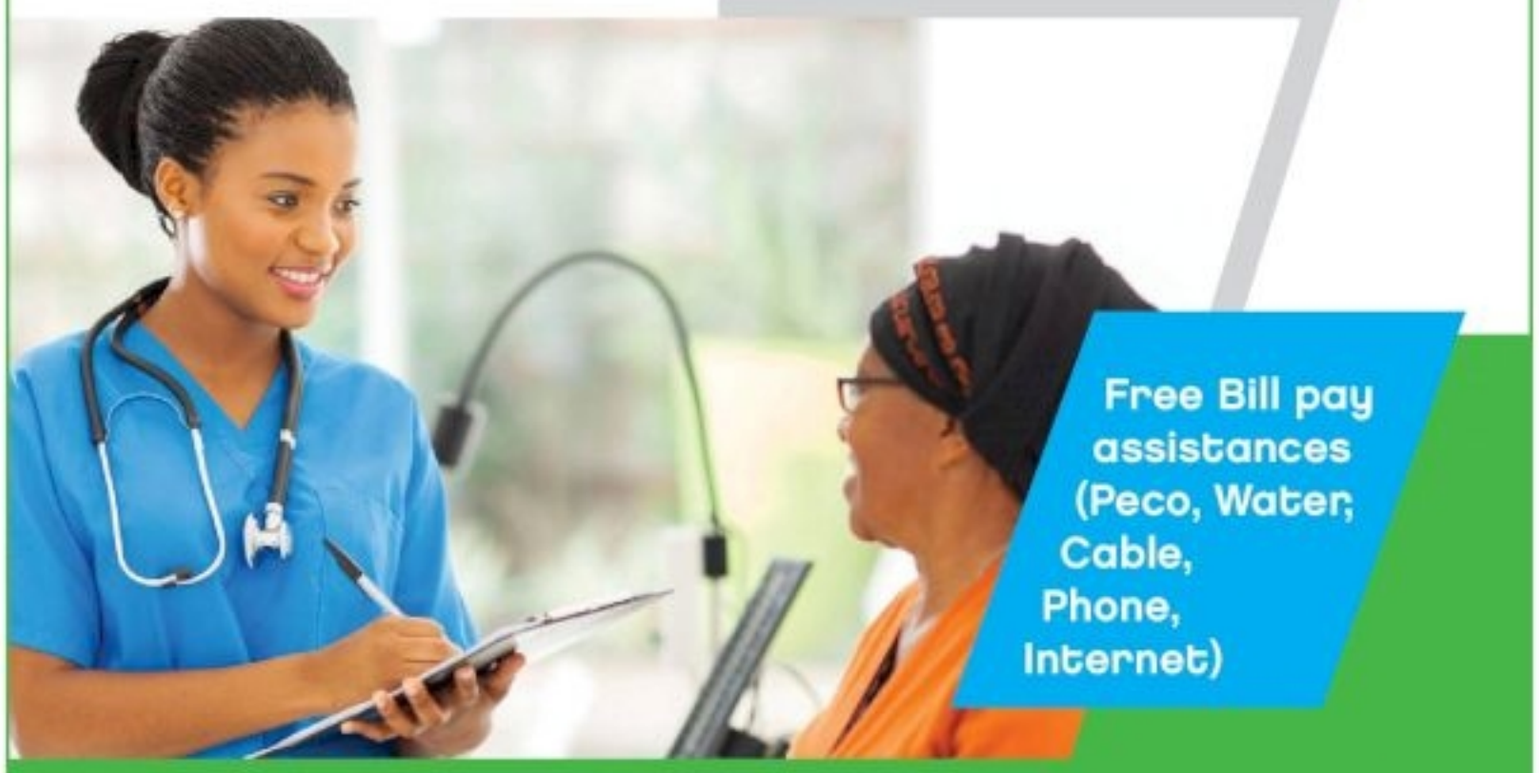

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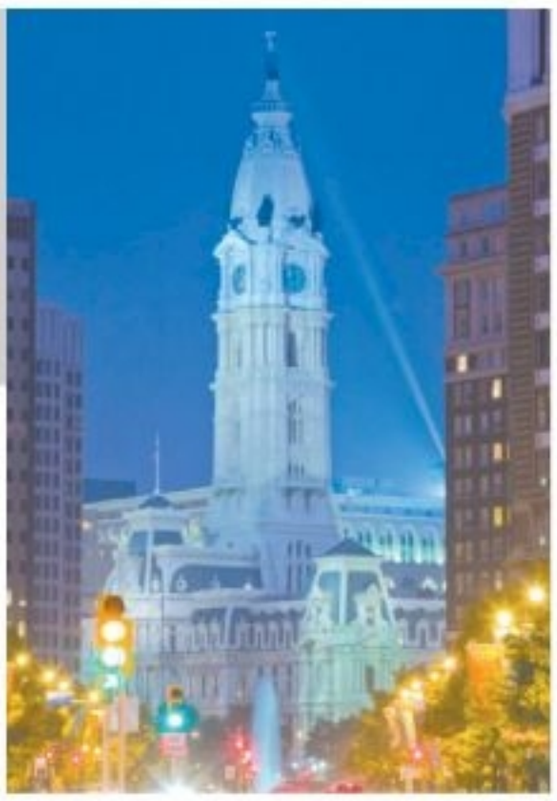

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Philly falls from top spot on 'Most Facial Hair Friendly' list

But it's not all bad news. Here's how to get a free beard trim in Liberty Place.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan@metro.us

A mobile barbershop will be at Liberty Place next Thursday. COURTESY OF WAHL

Philadelphia recently made it to a list of "Most Facial Hair Friendly Cities in America," but only by the hair on its chinny chin chin.

The city fell from first place last year to 10th place this year, with Chicago taking top honors. But despite the drop, hairy Philadelphians will still be treated to free manscaping later this month.

Men's grooming company Wahl, which compiled the list, will stop in Philly as part of an annual tour of a 30-foot mobile barbershop. The tour stops at the top 10 most facial hair-friendly cities, and does so for a good cause — to help end prostate cancer.

The mobile barbershop will be parked at Liberty Place on Thursday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., where a team of master barbers will offer free facial hair trims. For every trim, Wahl will donate $1 to ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer, a leading national nonprofit with the mission to end prostate cancer.

"When you're in the business of celebrating great facial hair like we are, it helps to have a compass," said Steven Yde, division vice president for Wahl. "Identifying the most facial hair-friendly cities in America not only supports our mission of finding and promoting great facial hair, but it lets guys know where their anti-clean-shaven lifestyle is most welcome."

According to the group, the list was compiled after a study looked at "beard and mustache positivity," and measured online social conversations and searches surrounding facial hair.

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♈ **Aries** Look at every situation open-mindedly. How you come to a decision and carry out your plans should also include how others will be influenced by your actions.

♉ **Taurus** Test your thoughts and ideas on others. Sharing with a close friend or relative will help you decide what's doable and what isn't. Constructive criticism should be valued, not shunned.

♊ **Gemini** Past experiences will help you recognize what's right for you and what isn't. Make changes based on facts and on what you need, not on what someone tells you.

♋ **Cancer** Help others and you will find joy in giving. The connections you make will encourage you to socialize more. Love and romance are on the rise, and new beginnings look promising.

♌ **Leo** Don't let your ego get in the way. Emotional matters will surface if you are too quick to judge and act in haste. Concentrate on personal growth, not on changing others.

♍ **Virgo** Spend time updating your qualifications, appearance and important relationships. Attend functions and network with your peers. If you show interest in others, you'll gain respect.

♎ **Libra** Take in information before you get into a discussion with someone who thinks differently than you. Get your facts straight and have your thoughts in place. Preparation will make a difference.

♏ **Scorpio** Let your actions be your voice. It's what you do and how you treat someone that will make a difference. Don't force change on others when you can coax them with incentives, kindness and love.

♐ **Sagittarius** Don't be tempted by a false impression that someone's peddling. If you consider the logistics of what's being said, you'll realize the risks involved. Use your intelligence to combat fabrication.

♑ **Capricorn** Focus on your target. Dismiss emotions that could stand in your way. Show confidence and make the changes you deem necessary. Celebrate your victory with a loved one.

♒ **Aquarius** Stick to the basics and don't make a hasty decision. Give yourself enough time to adjust to what's going on and to react without letting your emotions get in the way.

♓ **Pisces** Sign up, get started and do whatever it takes to bring about the changes necessary to fulfill your dream. Much can be accomplished if you dig in and make things happen. EUGENIA LAST

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Rapper Nicki Minaj. REUTERS

Minaj pulls out of Saudi Arabia music fest

The rapper made the decision in support of world-wide human rights.

Rapper Nicki Minaj said on Tuesday that she was pulling out of a planned concert in Saudi Arabia next week, citing her support for the rights of women and the LGBTQ community.

Minaj, known for her raunchy outfits and provocative stage performances, was due to headline the Jeddah World Fest music festival on July 18, but her plan to appear was criticized last week on social media.

"While I want nothing more than to bring my show to fans in Saudi Arabia, after better educating myself on the issues, I believe it is important for me to make clear my support for the rights of women, the LGBTQ community and freedom of expression," the "Starships" singer said in a statement.

The New York-based Human Rights Foundation (HRF) last week urged Minaj to cancel her performance, saying her appearance would be at odds with the rapper's participation in festivities in New York marking Gay Pride month in June.

Homosexuality is banned in Saudi Arabia.

On Tuesday, HRF Chief Executive Thor Halvorssen welcomed Minaj's change of heart, praising her "inspiring and thoughtful decision to reject the Saudi regime's transparent attempt at using her for a public relations stunt."

Saudi officials last week said the Jeddah World Fest would be the region's biggest-ever live musical event. Other announced performers include former One Direction British singer Liam Payne and American DJ Steve Aoki.

Halvorssen said on Tuesday he hoped Payne would follow Minaj and withdraw.

When the concert was announced last week, some Saudis expressed excitement about the latest in a string of performances by Western artists, including Mariah Carey, DJ Tiesto and the Black Eyed Peas.

However, others were irritated by Minaj's revealing stage outfits. Saudi women are bound to an extremely conservative dress code.

Around a dozen Saudi women activists have been detained for the past year on charges related to human rights work and contacts with foreign journalists and diplomats in a case that has drawn global attention after last year's murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

> **"You say you've educated yourself on the issues but clearly that's not true. Good job on disappointing whatever fans you had here."**
> Jamil Baabdullah

Some Saudis on Tuesday expressed dismay at Minaj's withdrawal. "You say you've educated yourself on the issues but clearly that's not true. Good job on disappointing whatever fans you had here," tweeted Jeddah-based Jamil Baabdullah.

"I am your biggest fan and I was dying just waiting to see you in Jeddah but you disappointed me thank you," a user called Mohammed al7 posted on Twitter. REUTERS

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Yeasayer are unleashed and more focused than ever

Anand Wilder, of the beloved indie-rock band, talks new album "Erotic Reruns."

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

ALL PHOTOS CHAD MOORE

"Well, it's really just [that] the record industry was not really working out for us anymore." That could be an understatement from any musician trying to make a living these days. But coming from Anand Wilder, one of the principal songwriters of the beloved indie-rock band Yeasayer, that sentiment could have a little more unpacking to it than a clear-cut artist-against-bean-counters scenario.

Formed in 2006, the band — consisting of Wilder on guitar and vocals, singer and multi-instrumentalist Chris Keating, and Ira Wolf Tuton on bass — have stretched the boundary lines of pop music to hallucinatory levels, never staying in one place long enough to be defined by limiting genres. This year, the band broke from working with high-profile alternative labels Secretly Canadian and Mute to release their new album, "Erotic Reruns," on their own Yeasayer Records. While they lost support from labels, having their independence allowed them to dictate their album cycle as the band released four singles from the nine-track album ahead of the album's release.

"There wasn't enough kind of financial support," says Wilder of the move toward more DIY approach, adding, "You have to sacrifice a lot of your copyright and intellectual property when you work with the record labels. So we figured, let's just do it ourselves. And then, if we have hits, or if we actually sell records, we'll reap more of the actual profits instead of just giving them to some record label that's not even putting in that much money to help us create anything."

The resulting album is the most streamlined and direct representation of what the band has been trying to achieve over the past decade-plus. Songs veer into unexpected directions, such as the Wilder-penned "Let Me Listen in on You" which starts as a lush Beatles-influenced synth-pop ballad and breaks down only to erupt with a tense industrial bridge. These too-crazy-to-work moments happen all over the album, with both Wilder and Keating delivering transfixing hooks over the bands melting-pot party rhythms.

The album is also the band's most outwardly political release to date. Songs like "24-Hour Hateful Live!" attack the Trump administration and horrid state of the world head-on with lyrics like "ICE to ISIS, migrant crisis / Gleeful cruelty at the top." For Wilder, discussing the elephant in the room wasn't necessarily that difficult. But, making sure their lyrics would stand the test of time would be the true balancing act.

"I think, with this album, we were like, well, we have to address it, because it's just such a horrible, horrible time," he says. "Then, once you delve into it, then you need to figure out how you're going to address the politics. And I think we tried to do some kind of more obscure, abstract lyrics and then some very, very direct ones."

While setting out on their own has helped to give Yeasayer a new sense of purpose and freedom, Wilder explains that the three-headed beast still needs to occasionally fight for larger shares of the meal when it comes to getting ideas on tape.

"There's a lot of ideas that are bad ideas, and you have to duke it out, and you have to make compromises, and you have to hope that the group decision is superior to the solo decision," explains Wilder. "And then, if you really feel strongly about something, then you have to fight to make it work on the album. I love — there's a great story with the movie 'Young Frankenstein,' where Mel Brooks didn't want to put in the 'Putting on the Ritz' scene. He thought it was too over the top. But Gene Wilder said, no, that's the best scene in the movie. And then Mel Brooks said, okay, all right. But only because Gene Wilder fought for it [did] they keep it in the movie. And then you think, how could that not be in the movie? It's a pivotal part of the movie. And it's hilarious, too! And so, I think that's the same thing with the band. If you really think something is essential, you'll fight for it."

Make sure to catch Yeasayer this Thursday, July 11, at Union Transfer.

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Breaking boards and blurring lines

Riley Stearns talks his second feature length film, "The Art of Self Defense"

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Imogen Poots stars as Anna and Steve Terada as Thomas.

Screenwriter and director Riley Stearns is dedicated to the art of storytelling. In his latest feature, "The Art of Self Defense." Stearns tells a story that punches you with curiosity while showcasing an exciting variety of twists and turns.

The film follows a down-on-his-luck and frail accountant, Casey (Jesse Eisenberg), who suffers a brutal attack that leads him to join a karate class in a strip mall. Just like the karate students in the film break boards, Stearns wanted to break many molds with this feature — whether it be the limits of moral ambiguity, the structure of pseudo masculinity or the lines between reality and a timeless parallel overall. Stearns sat down with Metro to discuss his inspiration for the film, dive into his process on blurring the lines and explain why sometimes the answer to a problem is not exactly clear cut.

What was your initial inspiration for the film?
I actually do practice Martial Arts, but jiu jitsu, I've been doing that for six years now. When I wrote the film it was at the tail end of 2015 and I had been training for about two years. But I was toying with an idea that just wasn't really working for me. I felt like I was just trying too hard to do something that wasn't really a story yet. I kind of had a moment where I said, 'why am I not just doing something about something that I already love?'. I decided to make a film that was set in the world of karate, but also one that explores very real thoughts and fears that I was having at that time–especially about who I was as a person and society's expectations of me as a man. [I wanted to] kind of really poke fun at all of that through this pseudo-sports movie that I think people think is gonna be one thing and go a very structured standard direction, but then really just take it down a darker and more unexpected path.

Since the film does explore that hyper-masculine notion that comes with sports, what are you hoping audiences will take away from that point?
I didn't really want to make a 'message' film or have anyone think I was trying to teach them a lesson. But at the same time, I think that when I started talking about things that are important to me, I began realizing that they were important to other people as well. So hopefully it's opening up conversations, it's not necessarily giving any answers— and I don't think at the end of the movie it solved anything to say the least. But at the same time, it was very important to talk about it in a very overt and literal way and have there be no question as to what side of the argument I land on. Even with its subtlety, being very literal is where some of the humor came from.

The film certainly has it's comical moments, but also very dark moments as well– why do you think the two aspects work so well together?
For me, this is the exact film I wanted to make and the exact world I wanted it to be in. In terms of watching the film, I like blending the darkness with the comedy because it's an exaggerated version of what we experience in everyday life and getting to portray that in a more cinematic way. Once the film hits that halfway point and the rug is pulled out from under you there's just this excitement. Hopefully, as a viewer watching the movie, if you know bits and pieces of what's going to happen, how you get there is going to be interesting and what happens after it is going to be surprising too. I think that being a humorous dark comedy and getting to play with both of those things affords you some leeway to make some choices that are a little more exciting and interesting that you might have not been able to do in a more straight forward narrative.

While watching the film you realize that it takes place not exactly in our world, was that an imperative aspect to tell this story?

Alessandro Nivola stars as "Sensei" ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Yes, for me, if you don't have to have something in the movie that's going to be a negative aspect to the film, then just don't have it. The biggest example in this instance is the fact that cell phones don't exist in this world. It's never something that I think an audience misses, if you never talk about it then you never have to explain why you don't have a cell phone reception or why the battery in the phone has gone out. That's a good thing to me. When a film has to stop and explain the logic of the film, you know that there is then something that the audience has to stop and think about. Instead, you want them to live in a world that you've created.

I also personally enjoyed the irony of the ending and how everything came full circle, what was your thought process for the ending of the film?
I'm a big fan of setups and payoffs, that was an instance of just a funny setup and payoff. Also, a character making a morally abhorrent decision– but for the good of everything else, that was interesting to me. Even though the film, at least I think, ends positively and wraps up in a way that is hopefully cathartic for audiences, at the same time it's not a black and white, good or bad situation. I do think there is some moral ambiguity going on. I think if you can have something along those lines, it's always more interesting than just being like yeah the good guys win and the bad guys lose. [With this film] there are always surprises that come up that sort of push it over the edge.

"The Art of Self Defense" hits theaters July 12

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Fakefest will be at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City until July 14.

MOLLY GIVEN
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If you haven't gotten the chance to head down to Atlantic City this summer, this week is a golden opportunity. The shore town and the Golden Nugget Casino, Hotel & Marina will be home to the 20th annual Fakefest, and everyone is invited out to enjoy all of the tribute band magic all week long.

Fakefest runs from July 8-14, and every single day is chock full of exciting acts, touching musical tributes and one-of-a-kind experiences that you can only get at this colorful extravaganza.

It doesn't matter if you're a hardcore classic rock fan, a reggae lover, country enthusiast or lyrical advocate— there will be something for everyone and plenty of recognizable tunes for all audiences to sing along too.

Crowds can enjoy the tunes of Sensamotion (Bob Marley), Refugee (Tom Petty), Separate Ways (Journey), B-Street Band (Bruce Springsteen), The Prince Experience (Prince), Completely Unchained (Van Halen), Beginnings (Chicago), Tuesday's Gone (Lynyrd Skynyrd), Kashmir (Led Zepplin), Best of the Eagles (Eagles), New York's Finest (The Police) and Draw the Line (Aerosmith) all week long.

What better way to spend a summer day or evening than by dancing to the sounds of "Walk this Way," singing along to "Don't Stop Believin'" and feeling all of the nostalgia vibes with "Born in the U.S.A."? All of the incredible acts will be playing their hearts out at The Deck Bayfront Bar & Restaurant at The Golden Nugget Casino, Hotel & Marina during the festival. The acts will hit the stage from 1 p.m.-11 p.m. every day of the extravaganza, a full schedule with times and slots is available on the Golden Nugget's official website.

While at The Deck, be sure to check out some of the venues' enticing food and drink options as well. Concertgoers can sip on mixed drinks, wine, beer and delicious frozen summertime options such as Miami Vices, margaritas, strawberry daiquiris, spiked Dole whips and more. Food options include coconut shrimp or blackened mahi-mahi tacos, lobster-shrimp rolls, codfish Reubens, crab dip, pesto grilled chicken salad, homemade ice cream sandwiches, an assortment of burgers and pizza and much more.

If you go:

July 8-14, 1 p.m.-11 p.m., The Deck Bayfront Bar & Restaurant, The Golden Nugget Casino Hotel & Marina, Atlantic City, N.J., free, goldennugget.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the lien granted by the Pennsylvania Self-Storage Facility Act, notice is hereby given that the undersigned self-storage units will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, to satisfy the lien of the Lessor, with Metro Storage LLC as managing agent for Lessor, for rental and other charges due from the undersigned. The said property has been stored and is located at the respective address below. Units up for auction will be listed for public bidding on-line at www.StorageTreasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (License AU005857) on behalf of the facilities' management, beginning five days prior to the scheduled auction date and time. The terms of the sale will be by lot to the highest bidder for cash only. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged per unit. All sales are final. Metro Self Storage LLC reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner or are deemed abandoned by bidder/buyer. Sale rules and regulations are available at the time of sale.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

As we inch closer to the start of NFL training camps later this month, **MetroBet.us/Sugar** has more and more football betting options popping up on its board.

Week 1 NFL lines have been up for months, but starting this week there are now options to bet on NFL games in Week 2 right through Week 17. Smart bettors will often bet on games beyond Week 1 ahead of the season if they feel strongly one way or another on a certain team.

For instance, the Eagles are +1.5 underdogs at Atlanta in Week 2 right now at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** (under NFL tab, Live & Upcoming, under September 15 2019).

If you feel strongly that this 2019 Eagles team will be a juggernaut, or you feel that the Falcons are again going to be a disappointment (they were pre-season darlings last year as well but went just 7-9) this is an excellent betting opportunity for you.

That +1.5 line is almost surely going to change, likely in favor of the Eagles given what is expected to transpire in Week 1. The Eagles should easily win their Week 1 home date against Washington (the -9 line in favor of the Birds against the Redskins is the highest spread on the Week 1 board), while the Falcons have a rugged test in Week 1, playing at Minnesota.

A big Eagles win and a Falcons loss in Week 1, will almost certainly flip this line in favor of the Eagles – so now is a great time to pounce on them while they're still a dog at **MetroBet.us/Sugar.**

The Falcons have gotten worse each year under head coach Dan Quinn, going from 11-5 in 2016, to 10-6 in 2017, to 7-9 last year. They also lost running back Tevin Coleman in free agency to San Francisco, meaning that the oft-injured Devonta Freeman will have to stay healthy for the full 16 games if Atlanta wants to go anywhere.

The play: $25 on the Eagles +1.5 in Week 2 vs. Atlanta

TWEET OF THE DAY

Jeff Sherman
@golfodds

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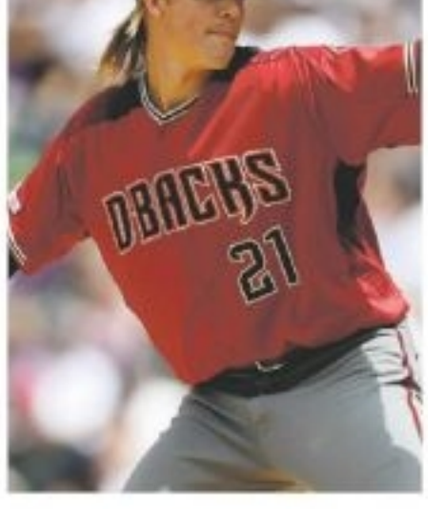
Best Bets

MLB Futures: NL Cy Young Award

The NL Cy Young race appears to be between two pitchers; Max Scherzer (-225) and Hyun-Jin Ryu (+150). However, a dark horse candidate threatens to upset proceedings in the second half on the year. Scherzer (9-5, 2.30 ERA) leads all NL starters in innings pitched and strikeouts at the All-Star break. But potential overuse of him by Nationals manager Dave Martinez to compensate for a lousy bullpen could hurt Scherzer in the long run.

Ryu leads all NL starters in ERA (1.73) and WHIP (.908) and is tied for most wins (10). However, he's been injured far too frequently in his career to trust that he'll avoid the IL from now through September.

Zack Greinke (10-3, 2.73 ERA) has flown under the radar for most of 2019 but is in the top five in wins, ERA, WHIP (.918) and K/BB ratio (7.2). His Diamondbacks are just 1.5 games back in the Wild Card standings, so if he can guide his team to a postseason appearance while Scherzer and Ryu fall back to the pack, Greinke could prove to be a great value bet to win the Cy Young award at 25-1. It would be poetic justice if Greinke could steal the award with a strong second half as Jake Arrieta did from him in 2015.



The play: Zack Greinke (+2500)

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HOW ARE WE NOT PAYING THE US WOMEN'S TEAM EQUALLY YET?

PANTORNO'S PERCH

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno

The U.S. women's national team captured its fourth World Cup on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

One of the looming issues existing in the background of the United States' run to a fourth World Cup title on Sunday is such a simple concept.

Equality.

Just three months before the start of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup, 28 members of the American women's national team player pool joined in a federal lawsuit filed against U.S. Soccer alleging gender discrimination.

They hoped to earn equal pay compared to the men's national team, who make plenty more when putting the two side-by-side.

The lawsuit noted that from March 2013 through December 2016, players on the women's team could make a maximum salary of $72,000, plus bonuses, for winning non-tournament games, making World Cup appearances and winning such matches, and for success at the Olympics.

However, if a member of the women's team played in 20 friendly matches and won all of them, they would only earn a maximum of $99,000. On the other hand, a men's player would earn an average of $263,320, per ESPN.

It was a vast difference in pay despite the women's team being far more successful than the men's program. The men have yet to win a World Cup title compared to the women's four. The women have also won four gold medals at the Olympics while the men have not medaled since 1904.

One of the main arguments is that there is a belief that the men bring in more revenue than the women. Yet recent history quickly dispels that notion.

In a report by the Wall Street Journal, the women's national team generated $50.8 million for the U.S. Soccer Federation from 2016 to 2018. That's almost $1 million more than the men's team during that same stretch.

As the women's game and the World Cup continue to grow, that number is only going to grow after another championship in what is being considered as the greatest women's tournament ever played.

On top of that, this year's edition of the women's jersey is Nike's highest-selling jersey in the company's history.

The likes of Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe and Tobin Heath are becoming household names as the women's team has been ranked No. 1 in 10 of the last 11 years.

Pretty ridiculous that the players and staff are not being properly compensated, right?

That notion is slowly changing and this latest World Cup triumph is only going to help turn the tide in the squad's favor.

It's time to pay these talents what they're worth. It's the least U.S. Soccer can do after being carried by and building its brand upon this team for the better part of the past three decades.

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Phils deadline status still unclear

Immediate schedule after All-Star break is imperative in figuring out if Phillies go all-in at trade deadline.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Bryce Harper and the Phillies are at a crossroad. CREDIT

With the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in the books from Cleveland, all eyes descend upon the second half of the 2019 season where the Philadelphia Phillies are in quite a difficult situation.

The Phillies resume their regular-season schedule on Friday night sitting in third place in the NL East, 6.5 games behind the first-place Atlanta Braves.

Philadelphia's pitching staff — from starters to bullpen — is a mess, Bryce Harper has yet to live up to his massive $330 million contract, Andrew McCutchen is out for the season, and June provided notable swoons for Rhys Hoskins and Jean Segura.

The struggles saw the Phillies' division lead at the beginning of June evaporate quickly as they'll have to play catch-up in the second half of the season to salvage things.

Missing the playoffs would be quite the letdown following general manager Matt Klentak's busy offseason. He spent a combined $572.25 million on the likes of Harper, Segura, McCutchen, and All-Star catcher JT Realmuto.

The Phillies are expected to be aggressive around the trade deadline, especially for a starting pitcher. They most recently have been linked to a reunion with Cole Hamels, who is currently applying his trade with the Chicago Cubs.

That sentiment could change depending on how the team starts back up.

Their first seven games of the second half are at home against the red-hot Washington Nationals and the powerhouse Los Angeles Dodgers. Things then slow down a bit with a pair of series against the Pittsburgh Pirates and Detroit Tigers.

Just before the league's Jul. 31 trade deadline, the Phillies host the Braves from the 26-28. If the struggles continue and they are handily beaten that series, don't expect Klentak to go on a trading frenzy.

Cleaning out an already-thin farm system for rentals could be seen as an especially dangerous idea given the team's current situation.

Accruing several rentals just for a chance at the one-game Wild Card playoff only to meet the Dodgers in the NLDS as a best-case-scenario does little to supplement the long-term future of the organization.

It makes the next few weeks a must-watch for Phillies fans as they try to salvage the season.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated on July 18, 2019 at 9:45 am.
Extra Space Storage, 2300 Washington Ave, Philadelphia PA 19146, 267-607-5171.
Albert Sims - 3148, Sharifah Maddox - 3097, Pia Worrell - 2154,
Norris Nesbitt - 2145, David Wilson - 4023, Antoine Adams - 5149B,
Steve Townsend - 3123, Harry Cenneno - 2072B,
Hakiem Hoskins - 4174, Alexys Simon - 4015B, Darrick Clay - 4008B
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated: **Extra Space Storage, 4433 Wayne Ave., Philadelphia PA 19144 • 267-453-3400**
July 17, 2019, 10:00 am
1A06 Keyana Davis; 2A02 Jondell Anthony; 2A04 David Cooper;
2A13 Nadirah Bennett; 2A135 Yolanda Saddler; 2A198 Sandra Owens;
2A20 Brian Thompson; 2A91 Caroline Watson; 2B08 Cynthia Perry;
2B12 Elisha Roberson; 2B23 Antoinette B Jefferson; 2B37 Evette Merritt;
2B53 Clania Bernard; 2B61 Ieshia Lyons; 2B66 Gloria Prioleau;
2C25 Raheem Mobley; 2C48 Leslie Kimball; 2D09 Theresa Neal;
2D144 Douglas Corbin; 2D221 Karinda Parks; 2D36 Shaniqua Vanleer;
2E09 Rachel Johnson; 2E35 Karren Earl; 2L08 Sarah Williams;
3A13 Cynthia Rainey; 3A209 Marie E Mullins; 3A295 Tanaesha Mcdonald;
3A69 Patricia Rogers; 3B15 Ronda Williams; 3C03 Angela Watkins;
3E09 Cynthia Archer; 3L12 Andre Wilson; 3L28 Dorinna Barefield;
4A135 Tyhera Barnes; 4A136 Meaghan Fasy; 4A14 Kimberly Clark;
4A180 Rashena Nicholson; 4B13 Erika Johnson; 4E07 Yolanda Broadnax;
4E103 Alexis Jeffries; 4E21 William Mack;
4L05 Kendall Watson; 4L08 Daniel Perry
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated: **12005 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19154, 7/18/2019 at 11:30 am**
I7 – Napaye Johnson, H1 – Derick Garner, 1998 – Derick Garner,
I10 – Bill Daleandro, J15 – Mark Volpe,
J13 – Elizabeth Gerney, K3 – All Pro Installation
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated: Extra Space Storage **1553 Grant Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19115, (215)464-3913 • July 18th 2019 10:30am**
534 - Stephanie Wirtshafter; 11 - Diane Zaccarlo; 235 - William McAndrews;
580 - Jeanette Davis; 41 - Colleen Reed; 394 - Samuel Gary;
213 - Tamika Evette Newell; 150 - Nicholas Featherstone; 21 - Jamar Henry
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A109C Gregory Leon Doram, A146C Antoinette D. Moore,
B132 Dekema Raheem Stokes, C200C Nicole D. Chandler,
D139CV Sandra Colon, E119 Jean Ronal Jean Louis,
E138 Bernard Gil, G103 Norcius Josilien,
V126 Andre C. Mack, V168 Arlene L. Lyons
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2144 - Jamyra Perry; 3264 - James Pickett;
5133 - Alex Suren; 3174 - Khaalisia Devlin
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Jabrill Joseph - 121
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Notice is hereby given that The Bank of Princeton, with its principal office located at 183 Bayard Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540, has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Department of Banking and Insurance of New Jersey for permission to establish a full service branch office at 1839 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103 in Philadelphia County. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director (DOS) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office, 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10118, no later than July 25, 2019. The non-confidential portions of this application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

ENTERTAINMENT

CARS

Vehicles Wanted

$$$ UP TO $1100.00 $$$
For Cars w/Bad Engines
w/ or w/out title
UP TO $500.00 CASH $$$
For Any Junk Cars or Trucks
215-669-1000

WE BUY JUNK CARS!
Top dollar paid in CASH!
Free pickup!
Call: 609-367-4437
or 215-730-0900

WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
(any condition)
$100--$5000
CASH PAID
FREE TOWING
SAME DAY PICKUP
267-229-1970

SERVICES

CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
$$ GET CASH TODAY!! $$

We Prefer:
- Accuchek Aviva & Smartview
- OneTouch Ultra Blue
- Freestyle Lite
- Contour

!! WE PAY TOP DOLLAR !!

Call or Text NOW: **267-225-4164**

CA$H PAID
FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS!
ABSOLUTE TOP VALUE
MOST BRANDS ACCEPTED
PAY UP TO $60 PER BOX
WE PICK UP
Call James 610-453-2525

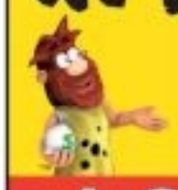
MITCHELL TEST STRIPS INC
We buy Diabetic Test Strips
We will pay up to $60 per box
We will pick up
GUARANTEED
CALL #215.820.4312

metroCLASSIFIEDS
To place an ad call 866-900-9473

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Wanted

WE BUY UGLY HOUSES



HOMEVESTORS
AMERICA'S #1 HOME BUYER
1-800-301-3223

We Buy Houses!
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Rentals

UPPER DARBY! 69th ST. AREA!
APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW!
NEWLY RENOVATED UNITS!
First Month FREE!
Sec-8 Welcome! We Pay Heat!
$650-$900
Studio, 1 & 2 Bedrooms
PLEASE CALL: 610-734-2360

ITEMS WANTED

NEED CASH?
Buying Diabetic Test Strips, Nicotine Patches/Gum
$ PAYING up to $50/Box $
215-425-7897
DROP OFF 1802 EAST ALLEGHENY AVE (K&A)

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GAMES

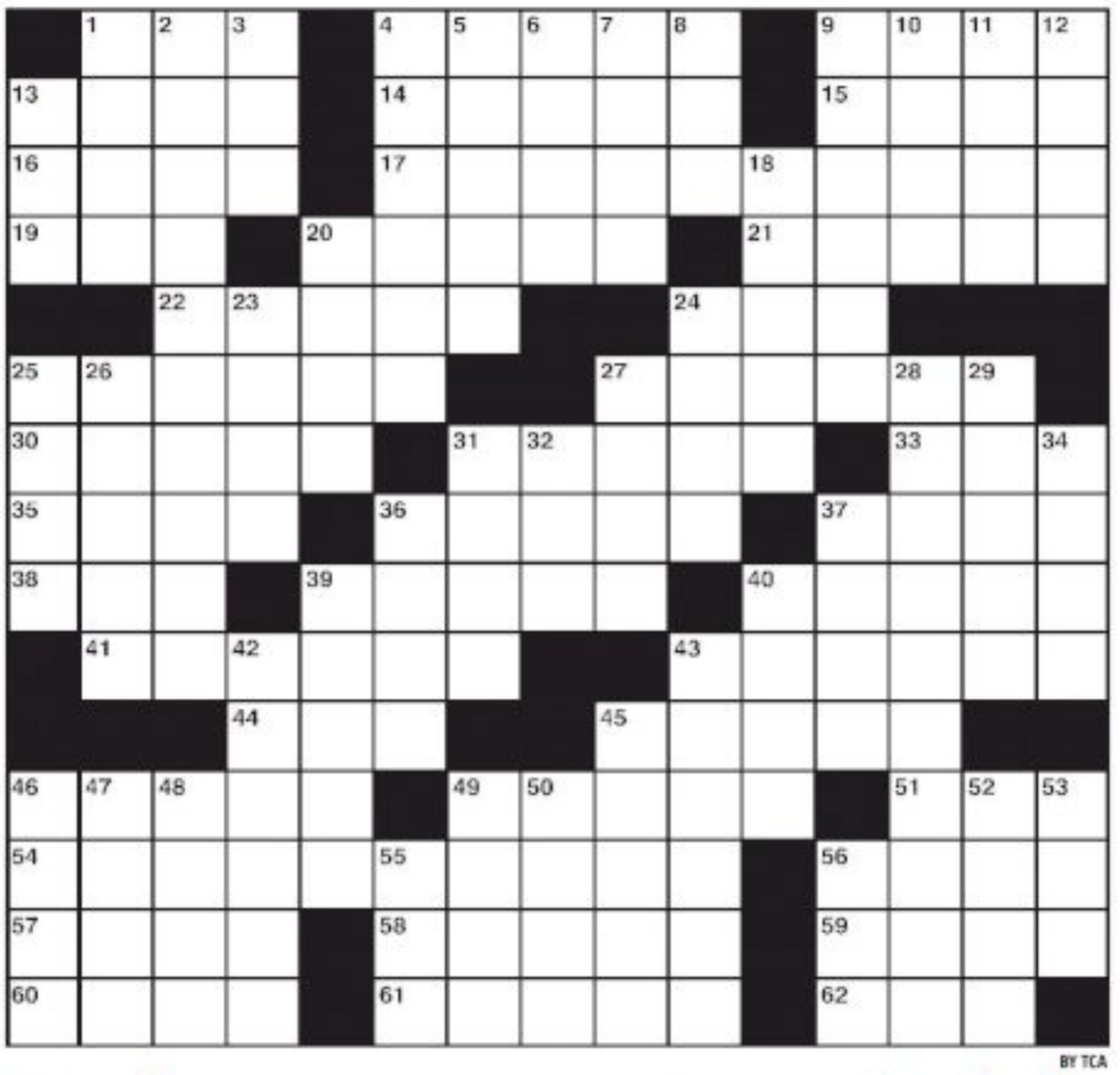
metro.us/crossword

Powered by Arkadium

Check your answers at metro.us/games

ACROSS
1 Colorful flower, for short
4 Undress
9 Tedious
13 __ fide; genuine
14 One of the Marx Brothers
15 New Zealand bird
16 __-minded; willing to reconsider
17 Wedding followers
19 Sapphire or opal
20 Tempted
21 Dishwasher cycle
22 West Point newcomer
24 Winter month: abbr.
25 Beauty parlors
27 Sounds from a barn
30 Take in
31 Skirt fold
33 Capp & Capone
35 Rogers & Clark
36 Circus performer
37 Factual
38 Fury
39 Ruffians
40 Flat-bottomed boat
41 Fisher & Albert
43 Self-evident fact
44 One of Santa's aides
45 Chairs & stools
46 Tapped tree
49 Hauled
51 Overalls part
54 Horseback rider
56 Sushi choice
57 Pop's sister
58 Doesn't float
59 Prefix for enemy or bishop
60 Michigan or Ontario
61 Jail
62 Word of disgust

DOWN
1 Sulk
2 Jobless
3 Gent
4 Operating room attire
5 Not all __; daft
6 Houston university
7 Frosted
8 "__! Goes the Weasel"
9 Winter sport
10 Huge feline
11 Takes control of
12 Smart
13 Wet spongy ground
18 Characteristic
20 Church season
23 __ off; severs
24 Only surviving JFK sibling
25 New Delhi dress
26 Worship
27 Skinny
28 Pennsylvania's capital
29 Snail's cousins
31 Two __ two is four
32 Journal
34 __ like; appear to be
36 Restaurant cook
37 Tight, as a rope
39 Mah-jongg pieces
40 Actor Garrett
42 Take out text
43 Very small
45 At __; being risked
46 Lunch or dinner
47 Greenish-blue
48 Juvenile delinquent
49 Musketeers or Stooges
50 Pen output
52 Edge along
53 Word from Scrooge
55 Recipe amt.
56 Aristotle's "T"



BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

E	C	N	E	I	C	S	M	H	O
X	M	G	N	A	Z	O	S	O	H
P	O	F	G	V	X	B	I	A	E
E	T	T	I	F	R	D	T	L	G
R	O	N	N	W	A	V	E	S	A
I	R	E	E	R	Y	C	N	E	T
M	P	R	E	T	T	F	G	T	L
E	V	R	R	R	A	G	A	J	O
N	D	U	I	E	V	P	M	I	V
T	S	C	I	S	Y	H	P	U	X

Coil
Current
Electric
Engineer
Experiment
Magnetism
Motor
Patent
Physics
Radio
Science
Tesla
Voltage
Waves
X-Ray

metro.us/wander

Category: Animated Film

C	K	C	A
A	E	B	L
U	H	T	N
L	D	R	O

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

5	8							1
		2	1		5			6
		1		8	4			5
		9	2				5	
1	5			9			2	7
	2				7	4		
3			6	1		5		
2			5		8	7		
8							6	2

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Yesterday's Answers

S	A	R	I	■	S	A	R	A	H	■	S	T	O	W
P	L	E	A	■	P	L	U	M	E	■	V	I	V	A
A	M	P	M	■	L	O	S	A	N	G	E	L	E	S
M	A	R	■	D	I	N	E	■	■	U	L	T	R	A
■	■	E	M	O	T	E	■	■	S	A	T	■	■	■
M	A	S	O	N	S	■	■	S	T	R	E	S	S	■
E	L	E	C	T	■	S	T	E	A	D	■	P	A	L
M	I	N	K	■	S	C	A	N	T	■	T	R	U	E
O	C	T	■	P	I	O	U	S	■	P	H	I	L	S
■	E	S	C	O	R	T	■	■	P	A	I	N	T	S
■	■	■	L	I	S	■	■	C	L	I	N	G	■	■
A	N	D	O	N	■	■	B	E	A	D	■	T	A	B
B	E	A	U	T	I	C	I	A	N	■	G	I	V	E
L	E	N	D	■	L	O	O	S	E	■	O	M	I	T
E	D	G	Y	■	L	O	S	E	S	■	T	E	D	S

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Alliance for Audited Media

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If you have been experiencing migraines for more than one year, you may be interested in participating in a clinical research study.

Qualified participants may receive study-related:

- Investigational Medication
- Compensation up to $225 for time and travel

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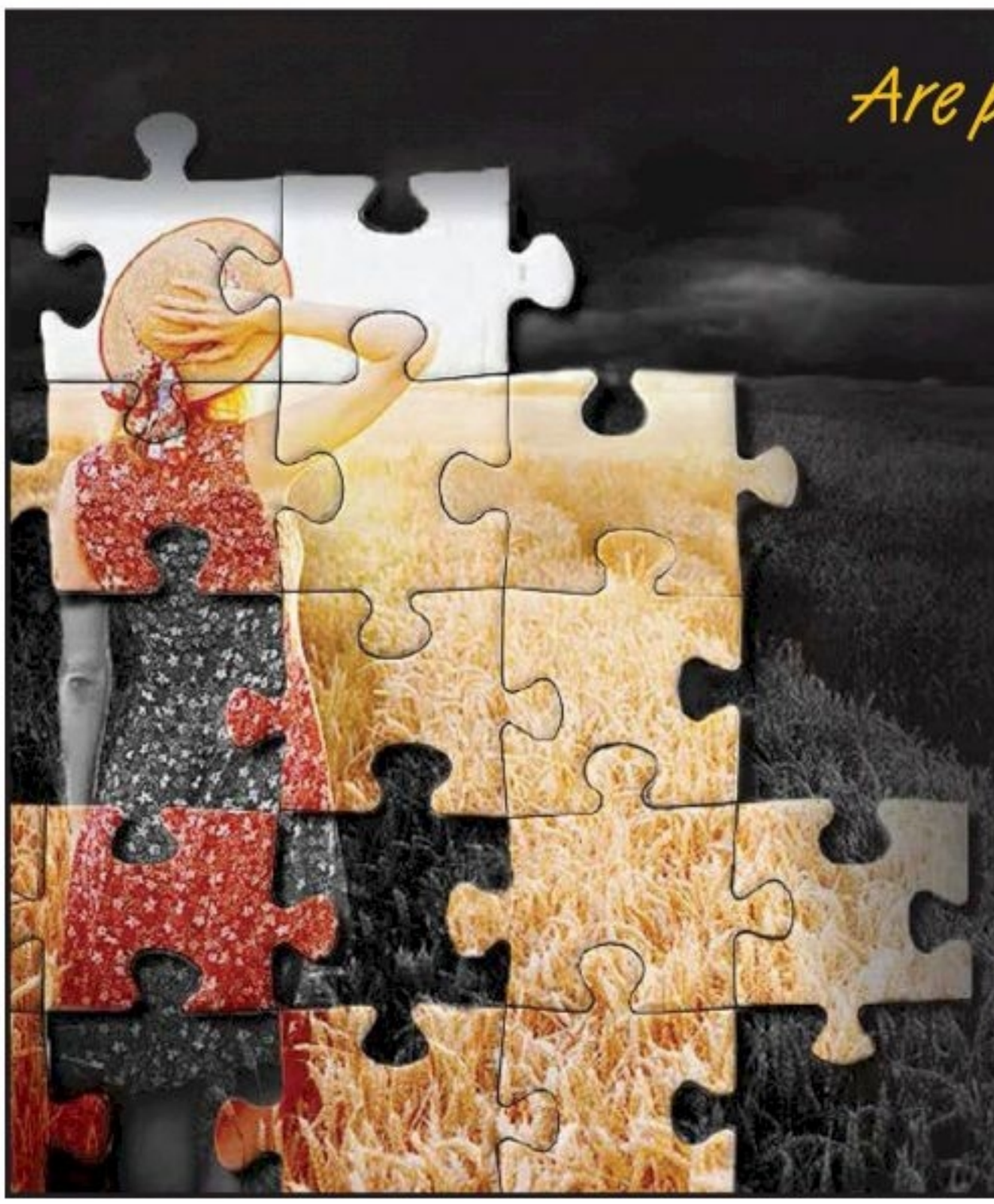
Center for Emotional Fitness - Cherry Hill, NJ



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In this study, researchers will evaluate an add-on investigational drug for major depressive disorder (MDD).

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:

- Be 18 to 65 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with MDD

To speak to a doctor, please contact

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